

a year. We have worked together to pass numerous resolutions supporting global Internet and press freedom, and highlighting restrictions in China and Iran. Many of us also authored the Victims of Iranian Censorship, or VOICE Act, which passed as part of the FY2010 Defense Authorization and was the only bill specifically regarding Iran signed into law last year.

The VOICE Act authorized funding for additional U.S. broadcasting into Iran and the development of censorship circumvention tools. This effort was spearheaded by Senators MCCAIN, LIEBERMAN, CASEY, GRAHAM and myself, while Senator BROWBACK has worked to secure funding for such technology in consecutive Foreign Operations Appropriations spending bills.

The 111th Congress, with strong bipartisan support, has done more to promote Internet freedom than any other Congress in history. We have set a standard that places cyber-journalists on equal footing with the broadcast and print press; we have funded the dissemination and use of censorship evasion technology at an unprecedented level; we have made Internet freedom a foreign policy priority and an integral part of the international agenda on human rights; and we will continue to take important policy positions on this pressing issue.

More remains to be done, and the caucus will fill that role. Internet restrictions, censorship, manipulation, and monitoring continues to rise in China, Iran, and elsewhere around the world. The annual Freedom House Freedom of the Net Report shows a decline of digital freedom every year. Nations around the world are using sophisticated censorship techniques and abusing national security laws to crackdown on access to web-based information, communication, and news.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to this cause, and look forward to continuing to work together to promote Internet freedom around the globe.

189TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREECE'S INDEPENDENCE

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the 189th anniversary of the day in 1821 when the people of Greece declared independence from the Ottoman Empire, launching the country's heroic 8-year struggle to end centuries of political, religious and cultural repression of their proud and ancient culture. This is a truly cherished milestone for the Greek people, Greek Americans, and for all the friends of Greece around the globe.

The ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern is vested in the people, and it was based on this political model and philosophy that our Founding Fathers formed our democratic republic. Today, our two nations are not only faithful allies, but also close friends bound by a shared heritage of democratic values and together

we are at the forefront of freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights.

Nearly two centuries after the rebirth of Greek independence, there is much to celebrate, but there are also many significant challenges which we face in the 21st century. Ongoing provocations by Turkey in the Aegean and irredentist actions by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia thwart Greece's quest for a stable southeastern Europe free of past centuries' often devastating territorial disputes. Protecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople the leader of Greek Orthodox Christians around the world from persecution, and ending the illegal occupation of the north of Cyprus remain as enormous imperatives that will require constructive engagement and a strong commitment from those willing to champion human rights.

Overcoming these hurdles will require us to strengthen the relationship that exists between our two great nations, so as to defend our foundational principles and ensure our vitality in the centuries to come. On this anniversary of Greek independence, let us not only celebrate and congratulate our friends in Greece, but also rededicate ourselves to bolstering the relationship that exists between our countries.

Madam President, as the first Greek-American woman elected to both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate, I extend my warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece and all Greek Americans as we celebrate the 189th anniversary of Greece's independence.

RED CROSS MONTH

Mr. LEMIEUX. Madam President, I rise to commemorate Red Cross Month. The American Red Cross is an exceptional organization, dedicated to helping people in time of need and providing a level of services that no other agencies provide. Led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, this group provides relief to victims of disaster and helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

The American Red Cross has an expansive and influential reach around the globe and in our neighborhoods at home. From assisting victims of house fires or catastrophic storms here in my home State of Florida to helping those affected by the devastating earthquake that took place in Haiti a couple of months ago, the American Red Cross is there, mobilizing our fellow Floridians in its mission to alleviate human suffering and to assist us in disaster preparedness, lifesaving training and addressing an array of emergencies. Locally, the American Red Cross is also a leader in providing aquatic safety programs—something of great importance to the State of Florida. Every day the Red Cross trains our friends and neigh-

bors in lifesaving CPR, first aid, swimming lessons, drowning prevention and water safety instruction.

Globally, the American Red Cross International Services Program reestablishes communication with loved ones separated by armed conflicts or natural disaster. Recently, the Red Cross provided family linkages from Haiti earthquake survivors to family members living abroad. In addition, our American Red Cross is unique in its mission to use archives located around the world to trace missing Holocaust family members.

A community-funded and supported organization, the American Red Cross provides around-the-clock emergency services, every day, 24/7. When the American Red Cross arrives on the scene, its staff and volunteers are armed with compassion and support. As we saw during the response to the earthquake in Haiti, you can always count on our Florida chapters of the American Red Cross to be in the forefront when our community needs them, time and time again.

I am proud to join with my colleagues in recognizing the Red Cross and thanking the staff and volunteers for their many contributions to our neighborhoods, communities and State.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE MACKEY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I am excited today to congratulate Alaskan dog musher Lance Mackey and his team of dogs that carried him across the Iditarod finish line for a first-place finish in Nome, AK, at 6:59 p.m. on March 16, 2010. The Iditarod is known as the toughest race on Earth. The trail spans across a significant portion of Alaska, and is roughly 1,100 miles long. The race begins in Willow, AK, and mushers cross the finish line in Nome—a small community on the coast of Norton Sound of the Bering Sea. Mackey and his team rode into Nome just 51 seconds short of 9 days on the trail—this is the second fastest time in the 38-year history of the race. He crossed the finish line with 11 of the 16 dogs he started the race with—tired but still strong after the 1,000-mile journey. This victory landed Mackey his fourth win in a row—a title no Iditarod musher has claimed before.

Mackey's trademark strategy of long runs and little or no rest has consistently landed him victories over the other faster dog teams competing against him. His lead dogs this year, or superstars as he calls them, are named Maple and Rev. Alaskans and fans of this great race are well aware that in order to race among the great dog mushers, a pair of lead dogs with endurance and good judgment is just as important as a strong musher. The Iditarod is not for the faint of heart—the trail is made up of some of the harshest terrain in North America and if the musher and his lead dogs are not in sync, there are about a million things that can go wrong. Mackey has